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RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE

Administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document E/CN.4/1998/L.37 entitled "Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance"

A. Request contained in the resolution

1. By operative paragraph 17 the Commission would inter alia reiterate its request to the General Assembly to consider the possibility of providing the resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

2. By operative paragraph 19, the Commission would request the establishment within the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of a focal point for coordinating all activities of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

3. Under the terms of operative paragraph 44, the Commission would decide to create an open-ended working group which will meet during the fifty-fifth session of the Commission to consider and formulate proposals to be forwarded to the Conference's preparatory committee, for its first session.

4. By operative paragraph 47, the Commission would request the organization of a world information campaign aimed at sensitizing the world public opinion on the Conference and its objectives and, in that context, to publish in all official languages an information pamphlet.

5. By operative paragraph 49, the Commission would request the High Commissioner to help states and regional organizations to convene national and regional meetings to prepare for the World Conference.

6. In operative paragraph 51, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would be mandated to carry out a series of studies relating to the preparatory process leading up to the World Conference.

7. Under operative paragraph 52, the Commission would request the Sub-Commission for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to carry out studies relating to the preparatory process leading up to the World Conference.

8. In operative paragraph 57, the Commission would request the High Commissioner to prepare a compendium of references to publications and other information on the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

9. Under operative paragraph 59, the Commission would recommend to the High Commissioner to organize, in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001, symposiums, seminars and worldwide consultations on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

B. Relationship of request to the programme of work

10. The above-mentioned activity falls under programme 19 (Human Rights), subprogramme 1 (Right to Development, research and analysis) of the medium-term plan for 1998-2001 (A/51/6/Rev.1).

11. It also falls under subprogramme 1 (Right to Development, research and analysis) of Section 22 (Human Rights) of the programme budget for 1998-1999.

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

12. The activities to be implemented during the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2002) are described in the Programme of Action approved by the General Assembly in resolution 49/146.

13. In this connection, it should be further noted that the responsibility for determining the activities to be financed by the Untied Nations regular budget and the level of resources for these activities is within the purview of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, in accordance with the rules of procedures of the Assembly and the existing budgetary process established by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213 and 42/211, and reconfirmed by the General Assembly in resolution 45/248 B, section VI, whereby the Assembly (i) reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters; (ii) reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; (iii) expressed its concern at the tendency of its substantive Committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters; and (iv) invited the Secretary-General to provide all intergovernmental bodies with the required information regarding procedures for administrative and budgetary matters.

14. Regarding the establishment of a focal point within OHCHR to coordinate all activities of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, it is recalled that one Professional and one General Service position were approved by the General Assembly in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 and continued under the programme budget for 1998-1999 in order to perform this function.

15. Concerning the creation of an open-ended working group to consider and formulate proposals to be forwarded to the Conference's first preparatory committee, the substantive servicing of the Working Group would be provided by the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and its costs absorbed from existing resources under Section 22 (Human Rights) of the 1998-1999 programme budget. The conference servicing requirements would be covered from within existing resources under Section 27E (Conference Services) of the 1998-1999 programme budget.

16. The costs related to the production and translation of the pamphlet are estimated at US$ 15,200 and could be accommodated within existing resources under the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

17. The organization of national and regional meetings to prepare for the World Conference, a process which OHCHR is expected to assist, would involve the engagement of five consultants, one for each region, for three months each to prepare background papers. The costs associated with this activity during the 1998-1999 biennium are estimated at US$ 150,000.

18. The conduct, by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, of a series of studies relating to the preparatory process leading up to the World Conference, would require the engagement of two consultants for a period of three months each. The costs associated with this activity during the 1998-1999 biennium are estimated at US$ 60,000.

19. The studies requested from the Sub-Commission relating to the preparatory process leading up to the World Conference would require the engagement of two consultants for a period of three months each. The costs associated with this activity during the 1998-1999 biennium are estimated at US$ 60,000.

20. The preparation of a compendium of references to publications and other information on the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance would be produced by the United Nations and would be absorbed within existing resources under Section 27E (Conference Services) of the programme budget for 1998-1999.

21. As regards the organization, in 1998 and 1999, of symposiums, seminars and worldwide consultations on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, each of these activities would be costed as they are prepared, would be funded from voluntary contributions received under the Trust Fund for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, if they can be secured.

D. Modification of the programme of work

22. The relevant paragraphs concerning the programme of work under subprogramme 1 of Section 22 of the programme budget for 1998-1999 would be modified through the addition of references to the preparatory activities leading up to the proposed World Conference on Racism which would take place in 2001.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

23. The preliminary estimated full cost of the above activity is itemized as follows:

Section 22

A.	Consultants	
-	Fees for five consultants (one for each region) for three months each, to prepare background papers for national and regional meetings to prepare for the World Conference	$ 117,000
-	Travel costs for the above	$ 33,000
-	Fees for two consultants to assist the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to carry out a series of studies related to the preparatory process of the World Conference (three months each)	$ 46,800
-	travel costs for the above	$ 13,200
-	Fees for two consultants to assist the Sub-Commission to carry out a series of studies relating to the preparatory process of the World Conference (three months each)	$ 46,800
-	Travel for the above	$ 13,200
	TOTAL	$ 270,000

F. Potential for absorption

24. It should be recalled that under the terms of the programme budget implications statement (A/C.3/52/L.74) submitted in connection with General Assembly resolution 52/111 the activities relating to the convening of the World Conference were envisaged to be implemented in 2000-2001. Therefore, no additional appropriation would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 for the activities requested in that resolution. Accordingly, should the Commission decide to adopt draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.37, all the preparatory activities envisaged therein would be implemented if adequate extra-budgetary resources would be secured for the purpose.